

Message Text

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USIA FOR IBS/POLISH SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: VOA PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

1. POLISH MEDIA HAS BEEN STRESSING RECORD LEVEL AMERICAN MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN OBVIOUS COORDINATED MEDIA CAMPAIGN. EMBASSY REQUESTS VOA COMMENTARY ON DYNAMICS OF INFLATION IN ACCELERATING U.S. DEFENSE COSTS. WE NEED TO STRESS THAT AN ACTUAL DECLINE IN TOTAL DEFENSE OUTLAYS HAS OCCURRED DURING RECENT YEARS. ALSO, CONTRAST WITH SOVIET MILITARY EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE DEPICTED TO BALANCE COMMONLY PROPAGATED VIEW IN POLISH MEDIA OF RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ALLEGED SOVIET REDUCTIONS. VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT CAN BE USED AS PEG FOR DISCUSSION OF RESPECTIVE APPROACHES OF THE TWO POWERS TO THE QUESTION OF DEFENSE SPENDING.

2. EMBASSY ALSO RECOMMENDS STRONGLY THAT VOA NEWS COVERAGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES CITE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NOT WELL KNOWN HERE AND ARE IGNORED BY THE LOCAL MEDIA. LOCAL PROP-AGANDA MILLS ARE HAVING VIRTUAL FIELD DAY REPORTING ON UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, PARTICULARLY ON REGIONAL LEVEL IN U.S. WHERE AUTOMOTIVE LAYOFFS HAVE LED TO SUDDEN DRASTIC PERCENTAGE LEAP IN JOBLESS RATE.

DAVIES

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